



Albert Lewis Tester

IN MEMORIAM

**Albert Lewis Tester**

1908-1974

The facts of Al Tester's life can be simply told. He was born in Toronto, Ontario, and raised in that city. After he obtained his baccalaureate degree from the University of Toronto, he was appointed by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada to a research position at its Biological Station at Nanaimo, British Columbia. In addition to his duties as a fishery biologist, he also continued his studies and obtained his doctorate in fisheries research from his parent university in 1936. He was the senior biologist at the Station in 1948 when we at the University of Hawaii offered him a professorship in our expanding program in marine biology. In 1955 he resigned from our staff to take the directorship of the Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Investigation of the United States Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. This appointment in turn led to his transfer in 1957 to the Bureau's Washington headquarters as Chief, Division of Biological Sciences. Not finding the life of a bureaucratic administrator in the capital to his liking, he returned to his old position at the University of Hawaii in 1958. He was serving, at the University's request, in a year's appointment past his normal retirement age when he was suddenly stricken in November 1974; he left his wife, Laura, two children, and six grandchildren.

Such a terse outline tells nothing of Al Tester as a teacher, as a scientist, and as an administrator. As a teacher, Al was known for presenting well-organized and coherent courses and for his patience with and understanding of his students; yet his demands upon them were such that they became thoroughly versed in the subject matter of the courses. He liked and was liked by his graduate students, whom he encouraged and with whom he spent many hours in supervision. In the section immediately following are the abstracts of the papers delivered by graduate students at the Albert L. Tester Memorial Symposium.

His research covered many fields, all with direct application to fishery problems, yet almost all with broad scientific importance. In Canada his work was done primarily upon the fluctuations in the stocks of the Pacific herring, research that led him into population biology and biometry. When he came to Hawaii, he first investigated aspects of the problem of baitfish for the tuna industry, a problem that led in turn to the study of the sensory perception and reaction to stimuli of the tuna itself. After his return from Washington, he studied for many years the sensory perception of sharks, aiding the United States Office of Naval Research in its attempts to develop an effective shark repellent. From his research, he published over 100 scientific papers and was accorded an international reputation as a thorough and careful scientist.

Although he did not especially like administrative work, he did not shirk this duty and would often find himself thrust into positions of authority. He was never other than competent and conscientious, and, above all, fair to all individuals without regard to their rank.

But, in the memories of those who knew him, his personal characteristics eclipse his fine professional qualities and performances. He was a man of great personal integrity, but one without pretense and pomposity, a man who gave to those he

knew a warm friendship, with compassion and personal help in their times of adversity. He is to be remembered as well for his bubbling humor that would so often break forth unexpectedly.

It is an honor to be able to dedicate this issue of *Pacific Science* to my good friend of so many years, Al Tester, and to his tradition of encouraging the individual research efforts of his graduate students.

15 September 1976

Albert H. Banner  
Professor of Zoology